Profit/loss on import of white cement by NAFED

2237. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1203 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the import of white cement by NAFED was done under the additional licence or under OGL;

(b) whether the profit/loss on this import has been assessed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) NAFED was issued an additional licence for import in 1983-84 as incentive against exports. Accordingly it placed orders for imports of white cement under the scheme and imported the same during 1984-85 policy period. When the item arrived it was understood by NAFED that the import of white cement was opened under OGL for stock and sale and its import did not require additional licence. Under the circumstances, NAFED availed of the facility and claimed its clearance under OGL.

(b) and (c) Pending settlement of a dispute involving sales transaction, the accounts relating to the import of white cement by NAFED have not yet been finalised.

Sale Tax reimbursement to vanaspati units

2238. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SAGAR RAYKA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sales Tax reimbursement facility provided in the Parameswaran Committee Report on Sales Tax by the STC on imported oils does not cover the transactions of the vanaspati units transferring goods on consignment basis to their depot and agents located outside the States for subsequent sales herein;

(b) what are the reasons for not covering the sales taking place following consignment transfer, although the spirit underlying the Parameswaran Committee Report is uniform price for imported oils input in the manufacture of vanaspati; and

(c) what are the reasons that the inter-State sale subsequent to transfer of goods on consignment basis are not considered sales for the purpose of re-imbursement when the sales tax is actually paid outside the State where vanaspati is exported and the finished vanaspati goods contain imported oil as input?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Parameswaran Committee Report envisages that the incidence of sales tax of raw material is available on concessional basis and only the lower rate qualifies for reimbursement against submission of declaration forms as prescribed under the Sales Tax Act by the concerned unit. The declaration can be submitted only in respect of that quantity of imported oil which is used in manufacture of vanaspati sold inside the State. Thus any quantity of edible oil used for manufacture of vanaspati which is transferred on consignment basis outside the State does not qualify for concessional sales tax and attracts no rebate from STC.

Losses suffered by fertilizer plants

2239. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer plants of fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., National Fertilizer Ltd., and Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilizer Ltd., have suffered losses during the last one year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) No, Sir. Only

the Thal plant of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) suffered a loss of Rs. 24.35 crores (provisional) during 1986-87.

(b) The loss was mainly because the plant could not achieve the desired level of capacity utilisation on a sustained basis due to equipment problems, accumulation of stocks of fertilizers on account of unfavourable weather conditions and price discounts offered by RCF to clear the stocks. The company is taking steps for repair/replacement of equipment to improve capacity utilisation and achieve efficiency in consumption levels. To facilitate clearance of accumulated stocks, it has been decided not to import urea and DAP in the first half of 1987-88; imports during the second half will be restricted to meeting unavoidable international commitments. Also imported stocks will not be released for distribution so long as adequate indigenous stocks are available as far as possible.

Fair price shops and branch or Super Bazar in the Vasant Vihar

2240. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken in the matter of opening of Fair Price Shops and branch of Super Bazar in the Government colony, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No decision has been taken to open a fair price shop or a branch of Super Bazar in Government Colony, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Eligibility for crop insurance scheme

2241. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the minimum acre of land that a farmer should hold to become eligible for Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether farmers holding five acres of land or less are also eligible for Crop Insurance Scheme;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to cover such farmers of the country under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) There is no eligibility criterion as to the size of land holding for participating in the Crop Insurance. All farmers availing of crop loans from Cooperative Credit Institutions, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks for raising crops of wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses in the 'defined area(s) are covered under the Scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Farmers having holding of 5 acres or less are already covered under the Scheme.

Allotment of Plots to successful Bidders in Nehru Pace, New Delhi

2242. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether stay granted by courts on the matter of allotment of plots to successful bidders in Nehru Place, New Delhi who purchased the plots in an auction in April, 1986 has since been vacated and possession of plots given to bidders; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) if not, what are the steps Government have taken to have the stay vacated;